

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-11, 13-20 are pending in this Application. No new matter is added by way of these amendments, and the amendments are supported throughout the Specification and the drawings.

Independent Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of canceled dependent Claim 2. Independent Claim 11 has been amended to include the features of canceled dependent Claim 12. Pursuant to page 4 of the Office Action, Claims 1, 3-11, 13-20 is respectfully requested. The Applicant respectfully reserves the right to present identical or similar claims in a continuation application without any admission to the arguments presented in the Office Action.

With respect to the Interview Summary dated May 3, 2006, the Applicant agrees with the summary except to the extent it can be interpreted that the Applicant agreed that the '739 patent explains that the positive members catchably engage the teeth (it is admitted that the Examiners stated this during the interview though). The Applicant disputed the Examiners' claims because the prong tips (130) are separate when positioned upon the core thereby separating the prongs ("The sloped side surfaces 111 and 108 of wedge end extension 110 acting against tip surface 134 of prong tips 130 facilitate the separation of prong tips 130." Column 9, Lines 27-30.). In addition, Figures 10 and 13 show how the prong tips 130 extend significantly further toward one another thereby making a small distance compared to the distance 143 and 119.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, early reconsideration and allowance of this application are most courteously solicited. Should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance, they are invited to telephone the undersigned.

In addition, it is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made

above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

Respectfully submitted,


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6-23-06
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